

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9777
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
USUN NEW YORK 3005
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 9425

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI, SHUM
SUBJECT: KEY GOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL CHANGES

REF: LAGOS 9180

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. ON THE HEELS OF A MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE AND REPLACEMENT OF 19 STATE GOVERNORS, THE CABINET OFFICE HAS ANNOUNCED THE RENEWAL OF DR. BOLAJI AKINYEMI'S APPOINTMENT AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NIIA) AND THE REDEPLOYMENT OF SIX FEDERAL PERMANENT SECRETARIES.

2. THE PERMANENT SECRETARY ASSIGNMENTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

YAYA ABUBAKAR: FROM POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, CABINET OFFICE TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

A.S.N. EGBO: FROM MINISTRY OF INFORMATION TO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, CABINET OFFICE.

G.A. NWANGE: FROM MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVE AND SUPPLY (RECENTLY ABOLISHED) TO PUBLIC

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SERVICE DEPARTMENT, CABINET OFFICE.

U.G. GALTIMARI: FROM PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT, CABINET OFFICE TO MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER.

DR. B. SHAIB: FROM MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (RECENTLY COMBINED WITH AGRICULTURE)

TO ASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP OF FAO IN ROME.

G.A. FATOYE: FROM MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER TO

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER
RESOURCES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE CABINET OFFICE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER
FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR PETROLEUM
RESOURCES (NNPC), COL. M. BUHAIR, ALTHOUGH REASSIGNED
TO A MILITARY POSTING, WILL REMAIN CHAIRMAN OF THE
NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION.

4. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE FMG ANNOUNCED ON
JULY 24 THE FOLLOWING NAMES OF A NEWLY CONSTITUTED
GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE NIIA: CHAIRMAN MAJOR-
GENERAL IBRAHIM HARUNA, RETIRED FEDERAL COMMISSIONER
FOR INFORMATION; MR. BANJO SOLARU, LAWYER AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANT; PROFESSOR
E.N. OBIECHINA, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH,
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA; MR. TURI MOHAMMED,
DIRECTOR OF NEW NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS; MISS ADUKE
ALAKIJA, PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN LAWYERS; DR. ALI O. YAHAYA, HEAD OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, AHMADU BELLO
UNIVERSITY, ZARIA; MR. OLISA CHUKURA, SENIOR
ADVOCATE OF NIGERIA; PROFESSOR TSEAYO, HEAD OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF JOS;
MR. JULIUS ADELUYI, BUSINESSMAN AND FORMER
PRESIDENT OF ROTARY CLUB; LT. COL. N.N. DOGONYARO,
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NIGERIAN ARMY ARMoured CORPS HEADQUARTERS IN
LAGOS: AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE APPOINT-
MENTS ARE THE ASSIGNMENT OF YAYA ABUBAKAR TO THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND THE RETENTION OF
COL. BUHARI AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NNPC. THE INFORMA-
TION AND PETROLEUM MINISTRIES, ALONG WITH THE
DEFENSE MINISTRY, WERE LISTED IN THE RECENT CABINET
RESHUFFLE AS REPORTING DIRECTLY TO SUPREME HEAD-
QUARTERS AND NO COMMISSIONERS WERE APPOINTED TO
THEM. BY RETAINING THE NNPC CHAIRMANSHIP, BUHARI
WILL BE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE MINISTRY'S
ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS.

6. ABUBAKAR'S REASSIGNMENT AT FIRST APPEARED TO
BE A DEMOTION. AS PERMSEC OF THE CABINET OFFICE'S
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, ABUBAKAR HAD POWER AND ACCESS
TO THE SMC. EMBASSY SOURCES, HOWEVER, INSIST
THAT THE NEW ASSIGNMENT IS INDEED A PROMOTION

AND SIGNIFIES THE CRUCIAL ROLE THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION IS EXPECTED TO PLAY DURING THE FINAL MONTHS OF THE TURNOVER OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIANS. IN THE EYES OF THE SMC, THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT WAS TO CHART THE COURSE AND LAUNCH THE NATION ON THE ROAD TO CIVILIAN RULE. THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE COMPLETION OF A CONSTITUTION. THE JOB OF OVERSEEING ELECTIONS AFTER THE CONSTITUTION IS PROMULGATED WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION (DEDECO) AND ITS CHAIRMAN, CHIEF MICHAEL ANI. THE SMC BELIEVES THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MEDIA MAY BE KEY TO MAINTAINING STABILITY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ENSURING A PEACEFUL TURNOVER. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY AWARE THAT TELEVISION, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NIGERIA'S HISTORY, WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE ELECTIONS. THUS THEY WANT A STRONG AND TRUSTED MAN IN CONTROL OF THE MINISTRY.

7. BOLAJI AKINYEMI IS PLEASED WITH HIS REAPPOINTMENT, WHICH IS EFFECTIVE AS OF AUGUST 23, BUT CLAIMS HE WILL NOT ACCEPT IT IF HIS PRESENT RELATIONSHIP WITH MEA IS NOT CLARIFIED TO HIS SATISFACTION. MEA'S PERMANENT SECRETARY, AMB. JOHN UKEGBU, HAS INFORMED BOLAJI THAT HE MAY NOT INVITE FOREIGN SCHOLARS, SCHEDULE SEMINARS OR LECTURES INVOLVING FOREIGNERS, OR ARRANGE FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR HIMSELF OR HIS STAFF WITHOUT GOING THROUGH THE MINISTRY. BOLAJI FEELS THAT HE CANNOT DO HIS JOB OPERATING UNDER SUCH CONSTRAINTS AND INTENDS TO SO INFORM UKEGBU. WYMAN

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